

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated June 1, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claim 20 is withdrawn in this application. Claims 1-19 are rejected to by the Examiner. Claim 21 has been added. Claims 1-21 remain pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 12, 17, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,129,804 to Gaynes (hereinafter "Gaynes"). Claims 3-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gaynes in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0043344 to Watanabe (hereinafter "Watanabe") and U.S. Patent 5,961,777. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gaynes in view of JP 2001-356353 (hereinafter "Satoshi").

The rejection of claims 1-19 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claim 1 is patentable over Gaynes, Watanabe, and Satoshi, and in that claim 42 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "substrate bonding station for bonding unbonded first and second substrates, wherein the substrate bonding station includes first and second sides; at least one loader arranged at the first side of the substrate bonding station for loading the unbonded first and second substrates into the substrate bonding station; and at least one unloader arranged at the second side for unloading bonded ones of the first and second substrates". None of Gaynes, Watanabe, and Satoshi, teach, disclose or suggest, either expressly or inherently, these features of the claimed invention.

The structure of claim 1 of the present invention is different from the Gaynes, Watanabe, and Satoshi structures in that those references do not disclose, teach, or suggest at least "the substrate bonding station includes first and second sides; at least one loader arranged at the first side of the substrate bonding station for loading the unbonded first and second substrates into the substrate bonding station; and at least one unloader arranged at the second side". Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and claims 2-19, which depend from claim 1, are also patentable over Gaynes, Watanabe, and Satoshi, at least for this reason. New claim 21 is allowable at least for similar reasons.

Applicants believe the foregoing arguments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

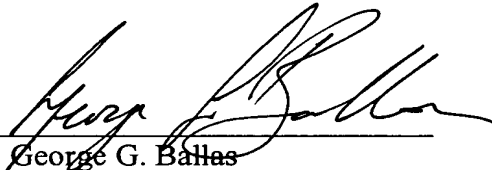
If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. *A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.*

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 1, 2005

By



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